

VISIT...

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TOWARD THE FUTURE...

EXCALIBUR™



30TH
ANNIVERSARY
1962-1992



THE
INCREDIBLE HULK

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE Banded TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS... EXCALIBUR!

IRELAND—
COUNTY SLIGO...

"HAD I THE HEAVENS' EMBROIDERED CLOTHS,
ENWROUGHT WITH GOLDEN AND SILVER LIGHT,

"THE BLUE AND THE DIM AND THE DARK CLOTHS
OF NIGHT AND LIGHT AND HALF LIGHT,
I WOULD SPREAD THE CLOTHS UNDER YOUR FEET;

"BUT I, BEING POOR, HAVE ONLY MY DREAMS;
I HAVE SPREAD MY DREAMS UNDER YOUR FEET
TREAD SOFTLY BECAUSE YOU TREAD ON MY
DREAMS."

DO
YOU LIKE THIS
VERSE, BROTHER
FRANCIS?

VERY MUCH,
FERON. ITS AUTHOR--
WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS--
TRULY UNDERSTOOD
THE HUMAN SOUL.

IS HE STILL
ALIVE?

SADLY NOT.
HE WAS LAID TO
REST IN THIS VERY
COUNTY IN NINETEEN
HUNDRED AND
THIRTY-NINE.

THE
WORDS OF THE
POEM ARE BEAUTIFUL...
BUT I FEEL THEY
WERE INSPIRED BY
PAIN.

INDEED, THE
PAIN OF REJECTION.
THE FEAR OF
UNREQUITED
LOVE.

ARE ALL IN THE
OUTSIDE WORLD
DRIVEN BY SUCH
PASSIONS?

HOW CAN I
EXPLAIN?

THIS SMALL
MONASTERY AND THE
MONKS WITHIN HAVE
BEEN YOUR WORLD
SINCE YOU WERE
BORN...

...SO MUCH
HAS BEEN DENIED
TO YOU.

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DON'T BE
SAD, BROTHER
FRANCIS. I
ACCEPT MY
DESTINY.

I AM
FERON.

YOU ARE A
PRISONER TO YOUR
DESTINY...

...LAST OF A
THOUSAND GENERATIONS
CHARGED AS SENTINELS
TO WAIT THE RISE OF
THE ANTI-PHOENIX.

IT IS TOO
GREAT A
BURDEN FOR
ONE SO
YOUNG.

YOU HAVE
PREPARED ME
WELL FOR MY
DUTY.

WE HAVE
BLINDLY MAINTAINED
THE TRADITIONS OF
OUR FOREBEARS TO
PRESERVE THE
PURITY OF YOUR
MYSTIC SKILL...

...BY KEEPING
YOU IN ISOLATION
HERE, YOUR FEET
BOUND IN THE SKIN
OF THE MYTHIC
BLACK BOAR.

IT WAS SO
ORDAINED, FOR
IN THE INSTANT
MY NAKED FEET
TOUCH THE
EARTH...

...I SHALL
INHERIT THE
FULL POWERS OF
THE FIRST FERON--
HE WHO SURVIVED
THE GREAT
DELUGE.

AND THEN
THE PHOENIX
WILL ANSWER MY
SUMMONS.

AND
IS THAT
TIME
UPON
US?

YES, THE AIR
IS CHARGED WITH
EVIL FORCE...

...THE STORM
IS GATHERING.

A SHORT DISTANCE
BEYOND THE ABBEY'S
CRUMBLING CLOISTERS...

DON'T PANIC! THERE'S
NO DANGER.

RUN!
THAT PLANE...
IT'S GOING TO
CRASH!

IT'S MY FRIENDS...
EXCALIBUR...

...THEY'RE
BIG ON DRAMATIC
ENTRANCES.

IS THIS
REALLY NECESSARY,
CAPTAIN? I WOULD
HAVE PREFERRED
TO STAY WITH
NIGHTCRAWLER.

HE WILL BE
JOINING US, KYLUN—
AS SOON AS HE'S
FOUND A SUITABLE
LANDING SITE FOR
OUR PLANE—

--BY WHICH TIME,
WE SHOULD KNOW
WHAT MYSTERIOUS
MENACE HAS CAUSED
KITTY TO SEND
FOR US.

Irish Stew

ALAN
DAVIS
WRITER/PENCILER
DEDICATED
TO MY DAD,
J.J. DAVIS,
FOR HIS
INSPIRATION

MICHAEL
HEISLER
LETTERER

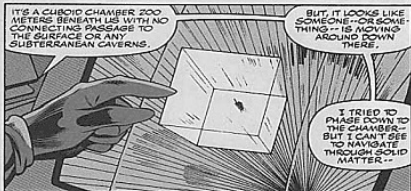
MARK
FARMER
INKER

TERRY
KAVANAGH
EDITOR

GLYNIS
OLIVER
COLORIST

TOM
DEBALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

EXCALIBUR
CREATED BY
CHRIS
CLAREMONT AND
ALAN DAVIS







SCRAPPER?

WHAT'S
WRONG,
RACHEL?

THIS CAN'T
BE... IT'S THE
FUTURE--MY
PAST.

HOW DID
I GET BACK
HERE...?



YOU NEVER
LEFT. THE TIME
TRAVEL ATTEMPT
DIDN'T WORK. THE
EFFORT KILLED
KATE.

NO! I
WENT BACK
IN TIME...

...I MET THE
X-MEN-- MY
MOTHER AND
FATHER...



...AND
EXCALIBUR.

EASY
RED!

YOU HAD
SOME FREAKY
HALLUCINATIONS
WHEN YOU PSI-
LINKED WITH
KATE.



NO! IT
HAPPENED...
I WAS
THERE...

NO, LOVE.
YOU FED OFF
KATE'S MEMORY
AND IMAGINED
IT ALL.

BUT...IT
WAS ALL SO
REAL.



AND
THIS
ISN'T...?

C'MON,
RACHEL, SNAP
OUT OF IT.

YOUR
FRIENDS
NEED
YOU.



THIS CAN'T
BE HAPPENING
AGAIN...

PULL
YOURSELF
TOGETHER,
RACHEL.

WE NEED
YOU.

I...I'M
CONFUSED...

HELP THEM.
RELEASE THE
PHOENIX FORCE
AND HELP US.

I CAN'T...

DO IT! YOUR
FRIENDS ARE
DYING.

BUT I
DIDN'T HAVE
THE PHOENIX
FORCE NOW--IN
THIS TIME--

--I TOOK
IT ON IN THE
PAST.

SELENE...

...THE BLACK
QUEEN OF THE
HELLFIRE
CLUB.

GO AHEAD,
GIRL. KILL
HER.





I AM THE
RIGHTFUL
HOST TO THE
PHOENIX.

LORD, NO... I
THOUGHT I MIGHT
BE FACING D'SPAYRE--
THESE MIND GAMES
FELT LIKE HIS
MALICIOUS
HANDWORK--

--BUT IT'S TRUE, I
CAN GENSE THE ESSENCE
OF THE PHOENIX FORCE
IN THIS ENTITY... OR IS
IT ANOTHER TRICK?

FORGIVE MY
DECEPTIONS. WHEN I
SENSED THE PHOENIX
WAS TRAPPED WITHIN
YOU, I ASSUMED YOU
HAD EVIL INTENT.



NOW I
UNDERSTAND. YOUR
MIND WAS TOO FRAGILE
TO CONTAIN THE
MAJESTY OF THE
PHOENIX.

RELINQUISH
IT TO ME AND YOUR
MEMORY WILL
BE INSTANTLY
RESTORED.

BRIAN SAID THAT
ROMA HAD ENGI-
NEERED EVERYTHING
THAT HAPPENED TO
EXCALIBUR--
INCLUDING MY
ENCOUNTER
WITH D'SPAYRE
--TO PREPARE
US FOR A
MAJOR CON-
FRONTATION.

COULD
THIS
BE IT?

YES, IT
COULD.

IT
READ MY
MIND.

HA HA HA...
OF COURSE,
YOU ARE
NOTHING
WITHOUT THE
PHOENIX.

NOTHING BUT
A HELPLESS PAWN
WHILE, WITHIN
YOU, IS THE POWER
TO BE A PLAYER.

RELINQUISH
THE PHOENIX
TO ME.

NEVER! I MAY
NOT KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON-- BUT
THERE IS NO WAY I'LL
GIVE YOU WHAT
YOU WANT.



OH, BUT
YOU WILL.

EVENTS ARE
UNFOLDING THAT
WILL FORCE YOU
TO CALL ON THE
PHOENIX, AND
WHEN YOU DO...

--I WILL
TEAR IT FROM
YOUR PUNY
MIND.

MEANWHILE, TWO HUNDRED METERS ABOVE THE CUBOID CHAMBER...

...A TUBE OF COHERENT LIGHT--GENERATED BY CERISE--EVACUATES TONS OF RUBBLE FROM A RAPIDLY FORMING TUNNEL.

HOW MUCH FURTHER...?

WE'RE GOING AS FAST AS WE CAN, KURT.

YES...
FORGIVE ME.

I AM JUST FRUSTRATED THAT I CAN DO NOTHING TO HELP.

--IT SEEMED LOGICAL--
--PERHAPS I WAS OVERCONFIDENT FROM MY SUCCESS IN LEADING THE TECHNET.

AND FEARFUL OF THE DANGER KITTY AND RACHEL FACE-- I SENT THEM DOWN WITHOUT HESITATION--

I PRAY I WILL NOT HAVE CAUSE TO REGRET MY DECISION.

NEARBY...



THIS STORM
IS UNNATURAL...
IT'S LIKE A
LIVING THING.

SO MUCH EVIL IS
CONCENTRATED ABOVE
US-- I SENSE NECROM'S
HAND IN THIS.

THERE
CAN'T BE MORE
THAN FIVE
METERS TO
GO.



WE'RE BREAKING
THROUGH--

BRIAN!





AND WHO, FOOLISH MORTAL...

...WILL HELP YOU?

ROCK CREATURES!

OOOFT!

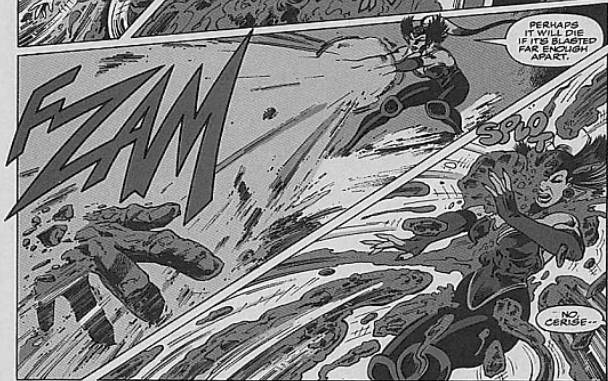
IT MADE THE GROUND COME TO LIFE.

DEFEND YOURSELF MEGGAN!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT POOR BOY?

I'LL LOOK AFTER HIM.

SKRIOW







GIVING INANIMATE MATTER THE SEMBLANCE OF LIFE WAS JUST ONE OF THE DEVILISH FEATS THE TYRANT NECROM USED TO ENSLAVE MY WORLD.

YOUR CONCERN SHOULD BE FOR THIS WORLD.

THE ANTI-PHOENIX HAS ESCAPED.



ANTI-PHOENIX?

THE THING FROM THE CRYPT.

IT TRIED TO DRAW THE PHOENIX FORCE OUT OF ME.

YOU? IT CANNOT BE.



YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF THE PHOENIX.

FERON!

YOUR OUTBLUST SHAMES US.



FORGIVE HIM. HE HAS THE IMPETUOSITY OF YOUTH, BUT HIS CONCERN IS ONLY FOR GOOD.

OKAY, IF WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE, MAYBE YOU CAN TELL US WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON...



FERON HAS SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE PREPARING FOR THE DAY WHEN HE WOULD HOST THE PHOENIX...

...WAITING--AS ALL THE GENERATIONS OF FERON HAVE WAITED--FOR THE RISE OF THE ANTI-PHOENIX.

WE HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THE PHOENIX WOULD CHOOSE ANOTHER HOST.



THE WORLD MAY PAY DEARLY FOR OUR ASSUMPTION...

...UNLESS YOU CAN FIND AND DESTROY THE ANTI-PHOENIX BEFORE IT JOINING WITH ITS CREATOR.

OR IT MAY BECOME UNSTOPPABLE.



PLEASE TAKE FERON WITH YOU. HIS MYSTIC ABILITY WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAUSE.

LET'S GET GOING THEN.

WHERE TO?



THE LIGHTHOUSE--THE TRACKING DEVICES THERE WILL BE ABLE TO DETECT THE ANTI-PHOENIX...

...IT HAS THE SAME ENERGY SIGNATURE AS THE PHOENIX FORCE.

FAREWELLS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY BRIEF...

...AND WITHIN MINUTES, THE EXCALIBUR PLANE IS BLAZING ACROSS THE IRISH SKYLINE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR BLACKBIRD, KURT?

IT WAS STOLEN FROM ITS HANGAR AT W.H.O.'S RUTHYMERE BASE, KITTY-- SO BRIGADIER STUART LOANED US THIS PLANE.

IT'S ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT WE CAPTURED FROM THE VIKEN'S HENCHMEN, ISN'T IT?

JA, AND FAR SUPERIOR TO THE BLACKBIRD.

YEAH, VILLAINS ALWAYS HAVE MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY-- THEY DON'T SUFFER BUDGET CUTS.

KYLIN, I WAS MOST IMPRESSED AT HOW SKILLFULLY YOU DISPATCHED THE ROCK CREATURES.

DO YOU RELY SOLELY ON YOUR SWORDSMANSHIP OR DO YOU HAVE OTHER ABILITIES?

I REALLY DON'T LIKE TO SPEAK OF IT-- YOUR ABILITIES ARE SO GREAT, MINE IS INSIGNIFICANT.

OH YES... YOU NEVER DID SAY WHAT MUTANT POWER YOU HAVE.

I'D SAY YOU'RE SUPER FAST AND AGILE...
...OR VERY STRONG.

MAYBE IT'S A HEALING FACTOR.

NO REALLY...

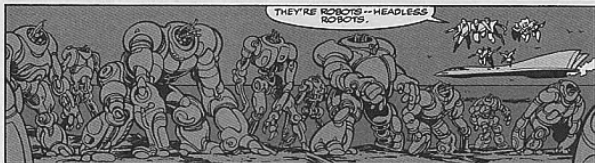
TELL US, PLEASE.

WELL...OKAY...

...I CAN PRECISELY REPRODUCE ANY SOUND.

YEAH?!











WE'RE TOO LATE.

THE ANTI-PHOENIX HAS JOINED WITH NECROM.

I CAN FEEL HIM IN MY MIND.

HE'S COMING AFTER ME.

NEXT ISSUE:
LET THERE
BE DARK

